

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – April 21, 2024

The April 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Jay Byerly, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Leigh Rothharpt, Hans Sunder, Warren Schick, Stephen Schulze and Stephanie Walton. Barbara Neumann and Tristan Walton attended as special guests.

Tristan Walton presented the final report for his Eagle Scout project, an extensive refurbishment of the ELC playground. This was accomplished over a 17-day period including the week of spring break. Items included in the project were refurbishment of the ELC building sign, repair of chipping paint and broken pieces on the play structures, repair and addition of planters, refresh of the memorial garden and addition of a “pizza garden”, drainage improvement along the side of the classroom building, enhancement of the concrete sidewalk by creating activity areas (hopscotch, caterpillar graphics, road graphics for tricycle traffic), addition of a mural on the storage shed, addition of an outside sink and replacement of aging gate hinges, and installation of a lending library box. He praised the efforts of the many volunteers who helped him, and President Lambeth remarked on his collaboration with the ELC teachers and attention to their requests. Council unanimously approved the motion to approve the submission of Mr. Walton’s Eagle Scout project.

The minutes from the March 2024 meeting were submitted by Council Secretary Julie Kilkenny and approved by Council.

The **Treasurer’s report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. March 2024 offerings were \$29,165, an increase of \$11,689 over February. Expenses for the month of March were \$29,346, a decrease of \$3,680 from February. The March deficit (of expenses over offerings) was \$181. The checking account balance at 3/31/24 was \$18,474 not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad noted that he had to move \$30,000 from the credit union savings account into the checking account. He provided a summary of investments for this month and remarked that it may be necessary to move funds to replenish the checking account in the near future. His recommendation would be to use earnings from the Main Street stock for this purpose. President Lambeth asked for a vote (motion by Hans Sunder, seconded by Warren Schick) to approve this recommendation; Council unanimously approved this action. Council approved the Treasurer’s Report.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Berggren remarked that it was a very busy month with Lent, Holy Week and Easter. He thanked everyone for their extra efforts during the season, including extra Holy Week readings, worship setup and food preparation. He enjoyed the midweek Lenten services and lunches. He noted the passing of HCLC members Harold Braun and Laverne Pivonka.

His other activities include preparing for worship and Lenten services each week; making phone calls and visits to parishioners; providing counseling and ministering for prayer requests [coordinating with Deacon Donahue]; outreach to the community; weekly Wednesday Bible Study; attending choir practice and various church ministry meetings.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

Improvements to Campus / Building and Grounds (B&G):

- Alan Lambeth continued work on the sprinkler system around the church grounds.
- Pastor Berggren has been working on improving the lighting in the stairway behind the elevator.
- Council revisited the topic of the icemaker in the FLC kitchen. At a previous meeting it was suggested that, as a cost-cutting measure, HCLC discontinue the maintenance contract for the present icemaker and purchase a smaller icemaker that would not require this expense. However, the Bereavement Committee noted that this smaller machine would not have enough capacity for larger events (ex: funerals), and that requiring committee members to purchase and carry heavy bags of ice for each event was too burdensome. Mr. Schick recommended HCLC continue to use the current machine (Ms. Kilkenny agreed to do the semiannual cleaning) as long as it was working, and should it break, the smaller icemaker could be connected and the matter revisited.

Food Pantry:

- President Lambeth presented a new proposal by the Pantry for its **proposed expansion**. A resident in the neighborhood, who is not in favor of the expansion, has presented his opposition at several meetings of the Hilshire Village Council and Planning Committee. Council had a lengthy discussion about possible solutions/compromises for this problem, and Ms. Kilkenny suggested that another meeting between HCLC and Pantry representatives, including the architect, was necessary. Ms. Lambeth will work to set up the meeting.
- President Lambeth noted that questions came up at the Hilshire Village Planning Commission meetings concerning the *written* agreement between the Pantry and HCLC, which does not exist at this time. (The Pantry's request to develop a **written agreement between HCLC and the Pantry** to outline the relationship and responsibilities of the two organizations as regards Pantry activities was originally discussed at the July 2023 Council meeting.) Ms. Lambeth distributed a draft previously provided by the Pantry for members to review and discuss at the next meeting.

Other:

- Council discussed several items regarding campus **security**, including upgrading the camera coverage. Ms. Rothharpt will research this.
- Stephanie Walton gave a short presentation on **VBS**. Council approved her request to order curriculum, which would help her in recruiting volunteers to staff the camp.

- President Lambeth reported the good news that the test for lead in the **ELC** water system was negative.
- Mr. Sunder requested an update on the interest in **Telge Lot 1**. Mr. Finstad reported that he was unable to reach the person who inquired about the property. Council briefly discussed that this lot was not on the market.
- Stephen Schulze agreed to coordinate a schedule to keep track of **inspections** for HCLC equipment, etc.

New Business:

- Stephanie Walton was elected as **Vice President** of the Church Council.
- Ms. Lambeth reported that the **FLC (Gym) kitchen** needs attention. She was approached by several members who would like to restart regular (quarterly) pest control services (beginning with clearing out closets and cabinets and filling in gaps through which insects enter), culling dishes and appliances no longer in use, and reorganizing supplies for the current needs of Holy Cross. She proposed hiring the custodian to do a “deep clean” before volunteers begin the task of reorganizing the area.
- President Lambeth noted that Gloria McGarvey has requested to relinquish her duties as **Usher Coordinator** and **Kitchen Coordinator**. Council discussed the need to publicize these openings and fill the positions.
- Ms. Lambeth reported that another Eagle Scout project is in the works. She expects to have more information at the next meeting.
- Council approved Tillie Remmert’s request to use **memorial funds** to replace grass and make improvements the sprinkler system.
- Council discussed a proposal by Ms. Walton to develop a “text blast” system to distribute HCLC news, which would be similar to and in addition to the current “email blast” system.

The May Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Upon motion to adjourn, the meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kilkenny
Secretary, Church Council